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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/660,733	09/12/2003	John B. Poling	1865.0880000/ALF	4912
26111	7590	07/30/2004	EXAMINER	
STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX PLLC 1100 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005				CHAU, COREY P
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2644		

DATE MAILED: 07/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/660,733	POLING ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Corey P Chau	2644	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 September 2003.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art in view of U.S. Patent No. 6281457 to Chang.

3. Regarding Claim 1, Applicant's admitted prior art discloses a loudspeaker system comprising: first and second audio signal input connections; a switch with first and second switch positions, wherein said first switch position configures said loudspeaker system to reproduce sound only from said first audio signal input connection, and said second switch position configures said loudspeaker system to reproduce sound from both first and second audio signal input connections (Figs. 1, 2 and 3). Applicant's admitted prior art does not disclose a switch slide mechanically coupled to said switch, wherein said switch slide is positioned so as to prevent connection of an input signal to said second audio signal input connection when said switch is in said first switch position, and said switch slide is positioned so as to permit connection of input signals to both first and second audio signal input connections when said switch is in said second switch position. However it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide such a slide switch in order to prevent the loudspeaker from performing incorrectly due to the input connections not

matching the operating mode selected by the switch, as taught by Chang (Applicant's admitted prior art discloses that it is well known to those skilled in the art, if the input connections does not match the operating mode selected by the switch, the loudspeaker will not perform correctly). In addition, Applicant's admitted prior art discloses depending on the specific configuration of the loudspeaker circuitry, damage to the amplifier or loudspeaker may also occur as a result of improper installation.

Chang discloses a slide switch (i.e. switch), a control rod (i.e. switch operating level) and a socket door (i.e. slide switch mechanical coupled to said switch) for selecting a device to operate in either one mode or another mode, therefore no matter whether a control rod shifts to a first position or a second position, both modes will never be operated at the same time (Figs 1 and 2; column 2, line 66 to column 3, line 48).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Applicant's admitted prior art with the teaching of Chang to slide switch mechanical coupled to said switch for selecting a device to operate in either one mode or another mode, therefore no matter whether a control rod shifts to a first position or a second position, both modes will never be operated at the same time.

4. Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art in view of U.S. Patent No. 6281457 to Chang as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6192860 to Hatlen.

5. Regarding Claim 2, Applicant's admitted prior art as modified discloses a switch, but only generally, no specific hardware or software is taught. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to seek known type of switches. Hatlen for example, discloses a switch (i.e. actuator) that is a toggle-type switch (column 1, lines 30-60). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ any known switches, such as that of Hatlen. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the switch of Applicant's admitted prior art with the teaching of Hatlen to utilize a toggle-type switch.

6. Regarding Claim 3, Applicant's admitted prior art discloses a switch, but only generally, no specific hardware or software is taught. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to seek known type of switches. Hatlen for example, discloses a switch (i.e. actuator) that is a rotary-type switch (column 1, lines 30-60). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ any known switches, such as that of Hatlen. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the switch of Applicant's admitted prior art with the teaching of Hatlen to utilize a rotary-type switch.

7. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art in view of U.S. Patent No. 6281457 to Chang as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent Applicant Publication No. US 2003/0174855 to Hawkins et al. (hereafter as Hawkins).

8. Regarding Claim 4, Applicant's admitted prior art discloses first and second audio signal input connections, but only generally, no specific hardware or software is taught. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to seek known type of audio signal input connections. Hawkins for example, discloses audio signal input connections are five-way-binding-post-type connections (page 3, paragraph 0032). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ any known audio signal input connections, such as that of Hawkins. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the audio signal input connections of Applicant's admitted prior art with the teaching of Hawkins to utilize five-way-binding-post-type connections for the audio input connections.

9. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art in view of U.S. Patent No. 6281457 to Chang as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4330691 to Gordon..

10. Regarding Claim 5, Applicant's admitted prior art discloses first and second audio signal input connections, but only generally, no specific hardware or software is taught. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to seek known type of audio signal input connections. Spring-clip type connectors are well known in the art as connectors for speakers, as disclosed by Gordon (Figs 8A-C). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to employ any known audio signal input connections. Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art

at the time the invention was made to modify the audio signal input connections of Applicant's admitted prior art to utilize spring-type connections for the audio input connections.

Conclusion

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Corey P Chau whose telephone number is (703)305-0683. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Forester W Isen can be reached on (703)305-4386. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

July 26, 2004



FORESTER W. ISEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER